REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-21 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

A. Claims 1-11 and 15-21

The Examiner rejected claims 1-11 and 15-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over the Rajakarunanayake patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,463,528, issued October 8, 2002, hereinafter "Rajakarunanayake"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 15, from which claims 2-11 and 16-21 respectively depend, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention.

Rajakarunanayake discloses a method for configuring customer premises equipment (CPE) by implementing a portable system that retrieves configuration parameters from a central system and then issues commands to a CPE. The issued commands are formed in a syntax corresponding to the model of CPE to be configured.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Rajakarunanayake fails to disclose a method in which up to date (e.g., post-configuration) CPE data is synchronized with existing (e.g., pre-configuration) CPE information in a database, as positively claimed by the Applicants. Applicants' claims 1 and 15 positively recite:

1.   A method of configuring customer premises equipment, comprising:
    providing a mobile computer having a first interface for allowing a user to enter: a) Identification information for customer premises equipment for configuration and b) configuration data for the customer premises equipment and a second interface for communication with the customer premises equipment;
        coupling the customer premises equipment to the second interface;
        automatically configuring the customer premises equipment through the second interface based on the configuration data and the identification information; and
        synchronizing configuration data applied to said customer premises equipment from the mobile computer with previous configuration data stored in a database. (Emphasis added).

15.   A computer program product for causing a computer to configure customer premises equipment comprising a computer useable medium having computer program logic stored therein wherein the computer program logic comprises:

interface means for causing the computer to provide a first interface for allowing a user to enter: a) Identification information for customer premises equipment for configuration and b) configuration data for the customer premises equipment and a second interface for communication with the customer premises equipment;

configuring means for causing the computer to automatically configure the customer premises equipment through the second interface based on the configuration data and the identification information; and

synchronization means for synchronizing configuration data applied to said customer premises equipment from the mobile computer with previous configuration data stored in a database. (Emphasis added).

As recited in the preceding claims, Applicants' invention teaches a method for configuring customer premises equipment using a mobile configuration unit interfaced to the CPE and to a service provider's database. In one embodiment, the method includes synchronizing post-configuration CPE data from the mobile computer with pre-configuration CPE data stored in the database. This step is significant, because if any configuration data is changed during the configuration process (e.g., WAN IP address or other information), this information may be correctly stored on the mobile configuration unit, but incorrectly stored in the service provider's database. Synchronization between the mobile unit and the database enables the database to maintain accurate, up to date configuration records for all CPEs served by a service provider.

Rajakarunanayake fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as a whole. In particular, Rajakarunanayake does not disclose that post-configuration data (e.g., from a configuration unit) is synchronized with pre-configuration data stored in a central database, in order to ensure that information concerning a service provider's CPEs is up to date and accurate. Therefore, Rajakarunanayake fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as a whole, as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. Thus, the Applicants submit that Rajakarunanayake does not anticipate claims 1 and 15, and that claims 1 and 15 therefore fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

Dependent claims 2-11 and 16-21 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 15 and recite additional features thereof. As such and for the exact same

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reasons set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2-11 and 16-21 are also not anticipated by Rajakarunanayake. Therefore, the Applicants submit that all these dependent claims also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and are patentable thereunder.

B. Claims 12-14

The Examiner rejected claims 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over the Vasamsetti patent (U.S. Patent No. 6,584,074, issued June 24, 2003, hereinafter "Vasamsetti"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent 12 in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention, and have cancelled claims 13 and 14.

Vasamsetti teaches a method for remotely configuring a CPE by establishing an IP connectivity between the CPE and a server at a network operation center. The establishment of the IP connectivity includes assigning a temporary IP address to the CPE. The temporary IP address may also be obtained from a Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) server. The server then telnets to the CPE using the temporary IP address and downloads configuration parameters to the CPE. The downloaded configuration parameters include a permanent IP address for the CPE to use to connect to the service provider's network.

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Vasamsetti fails to disclose a location of the DHCP server. Applicants' claim 12 positively recites:

12. A method of configuring customer premises equipment, comprising:
    receiving a discover packet from customer premises equipment over a communications line <u>coupled to a DSLAM including a DHCP server for determining WAN IP data</u>;
    transmitting WAN IP data over the communications line to the CPE;
    retrieving LAN IP data based on an address of the communication line;
    transmitting the LAN IP data over the communications line to the CPE; and
    wherein the CPE is configured based on the received WAN IP and LAN IP data.
(Emphasis added).

As recited in the preceding claim, Applicants' invention teaches a method for remotely configuring customer premises equipment over a communications line. In one

embodiment, configuration data is requested from a DHCP server that is incorporated in a DSL access multiplexer (DSLAM).

Vasamsetti fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as a whole. In particular, Vasamsetti does not disclose that configuration data may be obtained over a communication line coupled to a DSLAM that includes a DHCP server. By contrast, Vasamsetti teaches no particular location for a DHCP server. Vasamsetti only merely makes passing reference to the fact that a portion of the disclosed process could be performed using DHCP. Therefore, Vasamsetti fails to teach or suggest the Applicants' invention as a whole, as recited in independent claim 12. Thus, the Applicants submit that Vasamsetti does not anticipate claim 12, and that claim 12 therefore fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102 and is patentable thereunder.
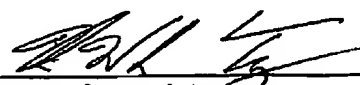
Conclusion

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §102. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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